

House Bill 423

By: Representatives Hugley of the 133rd and Watson of the 91st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Part 12 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the effectiveness of educational programs, so as to provide that a student who does not achieve a passing score on the science portion of the high school graduation test may be eligible to graduate under certain conditions; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 12 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the effectiveness of educational programs, is amended by inserting immediately following Code Section 20-2-281 a new Code Section 20-2-281.1 to read as follows:

"20-2-281.1.

(a) Notwithstanding any contrary provision, a student who does not achieve a passing score on the science portion of the high school graduation test provided for in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-281 may be eligible to graduate if the student:

(1) Has taken the science portion of the high school graduation test at least two times and has not achieved a passing score;

(2) Has met all other graduation requirements;

(3) Maintained at least a 'B' average or the equivalent in the courses comprising the credits specifically required for graduation by rule of the board of education; and

(4) Received instruction in one or more science courses from a teacher who was not certified in a science related area.

(b) The State Board shall be authorized to waive the passing score for any student who meets the criteria in subsection (a) of this Code section after consideration of such criteria as well as other appropriate factors, including but not limited to, the totality of the student's school experience, including the student's attendance record.

1 (c) This Code section shall continue in effect until high school science end-of-course
2 assessments have been fully implemented and the state board discontinues the high school
3 graduation test as a requirement for graduation."

4 **SECTION 2.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.